

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL PALERMO

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SICILIAN DC LEADER

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION WITH ON. GIACOMO MURATORE (DC-FANFANIANO), REGIONAL ASSESSOR FOR THE ENTI LOCALI, DAVID C. LITT, AMERICAN VICE CONSUL, PALERMO, AND MICHELE CALDERONE, POLITICAL SPECIALIST, AMCONGEN, PALERMO. DATE AND PLACE: MURATORE'S OFFICE, JANUARY 20, 1976.

2. BIO-NOTE: A REGIONAL DEPUTY FOR THE PALERMO PROVINCE SINCE 1959, GIACOMO MURATORE IS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTER GIOVANNI GIOIA'S FANFANIANO FACTION IN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. SINCE 1967, HE HAS UNINTERRUPTEDLY BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE REGIONAL ASSESSORATE FOR THE ENTI LOCALI, ONE OF THE KEY AGENCIES OF THE REGION.

3. THE U.S. AND ITALY: MR MURATORE HAD A GREAT DESIRE TO CONVEY THROUGH US HIS APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR VOLPE'S CLEAR STATEMENTS ABOUT U.S OFFICIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PCI. SIMILARLY HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE ROME EMBASSY'S HANDLING OF MSI-DN LEADER GIORGIO ALMIRANTE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LATE IN 1975. THE U.S GOVERNMENT SHOULD STOP AMERICAN MULTI-NATIONALS AND FIRMS FROM LEAVING ITALY. THE SURVIVAL OF ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS DEPENDS ON THE SURVIVAL OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY.

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THE UNITED STATES COULD DO A LOT IN THIS REALM: ENCOURAGE

AMERICAN COMPANIES TO STAY IN ITALY, FAVOR ITALY'S EXPORT TO THE U.S., OPEN CREDIT LINES TO ITALY.

4. THE CHURCH ROLE IN ITALIAN POLITICS: MURATORE SAID THAT IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS DECIDED TO STAND UP AND MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE PCI. THERE ARE ALREADY MANY SIGNS OF THIS IN SICILY. HE FEELS THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD EXERCISE ENOUGH PRESSURE ON THE DC TO PURGE ITS RANK OF FIGURES THAT HAVE A LOW MORAL STANDING.

5. HE SHOWED NO RESPECT FOR A REVIVAL OF THE CATHOLIC ACTION, WHICH HE CONSIDERED POLLUTED BY LEFTWINGERS, BUT SHOWED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE CATHOLIC COMMITATI CIVICI, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO MOUNT A MASSIVE PRO-DC CAMPAIGN IN THE NEXT REGIONAL ELECTION IN SICILY.

6. EARLY NATIONAL ELECTION: MURATORE PREDICTED EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS LATE IN APRIL OR MAY. HE SAID THAT MORE AND MORE OF THOSE IN THE DC HIERARCHY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PSI'S OPENING A GOVERNMENT CRISIS NOW IS A SPLENDID OCCASION FOR THE DC.

7. MORO IS MANEUVERING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE ARE NO SOLUTIONS AND THAT HE CAN BE THE SAVIOUR OF THE FATHERLAND, WHILE SHREWDLY AND SLOWLY MOVING TOWARD FANFANI'S POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT THE FANFANIANO ARE NOT UPSET SO LONG AS THEIR LINE WINS THE DAY.

8. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DC VOTERS ARE ANTI-COMMUNIST AND A GOOD PART OF THEM ABHOR THE SOCIALISTS. EARLY ELECTIONS SHOULD HELP THE DC COME OUT OF ITS ISOLATION AND TURN THE COUNTRY AGAINST THE SOCIALISTS, BLAMING THEM FOR THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE EARLY TERMINATION OF THE LEGISLATURE. TIME IS MONEY. THE DC MIGHT WIN NOW OR NEVER. THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS COULD WELL FOLLOW THE NATIONAL BALLOTING BY A MONTH OR SO.

9. COMMENT: MURATORE IS NOT A BRILIANT POLITICIAN, BUT HE HOLDS A VERY POWERFUL PATRONAGE-RICH POSITION AND HE IS VERY EFFECTIVE SEARGENT OF THE FANFANIANO COMPANY OF BOSS GIOVANNI GIOIA.

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10. IN INVOKING EARLY ELECTIONS, HE REVEALED A FANFANIANO DESIRE FOR WAR TACTICS AND THE HOPE THAT A RESHUFFLING OF THE DC CARDS WILL LAND THE FANFANIANI TO CENTER STAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MURATORE VOICED A COMMON BELIEF WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE DC RE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF AMERICA AND THE VATICAN TO HELP ITALY GET SAFELY THROUGH THIS CRISIS. CHIAVARINI

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